Coal Mines Privatisation Bill

427. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the major Central Trade Unions have raised objections to the proposed enactment of the Coal Mines Privatisation Bill;

(b) if so, the grounds on which such objections have been raised;

(c) the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) by when a final decision will be taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (d) Keeping in view the projections made by the Committee on Integrated Coal Policy about the gap between demand and production of coal in the Ninth and Tenth Plan periods, a decision was taken by the Government in 1997 to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 to permit coal mining by Indian companies without the existing restriction of captive consumption. In pursuance of this decision, the draft of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 1997 was prepared and got vetted from the Ministry of Law. However, five Central Trade Unions namely, INTUC,AITUC, HMS, C1TU and BMS opposed introduction of the Bill in the Parliament. While the trade unions recognised that a gap might exist between demand and production of coal, they insisted that the gap can be closed by increasing production from the nationalised coal companies by providing adequate budgetary support to them. This view of the trade unions was also discussed in detail and it was clearly pointed out to them that the gap could not be closed by increased productivity in coal mines and further that the Government would not be in a position to extend budgetary support proposed by them. A final decision in the matter will be taken only after a detailed review of the demand - supply position in consultation with the Planning Commission.

Coal extracted from mines in Bihar

428. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of coal extracted from various coal mines in Bihar during the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the amount of royalty given on coal to the Bihar Government together with the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of royalty given to Bihar Government on the production of coal during the said period together with the rates thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The quantity of coal extracted from various mines in Bihar during the year 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 is as under :-

(million tonnes)

1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
74.57	77.68	79.50

(b) and (c) The amount of royalty given to Bihar Government on the production of coal during the said period together with the rates thereof are as under :-

1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
658.33	682.77	665.24

The rates of royalty of various grades of coal as revised with effect from 11.10.94 are as under:-

Coal Group	Royalty rates w.e.f. 11.10.94 (Rs. per tonne)
Group-I (Coking Coal Steel Gr-I, II,Washery Gr-I)	195.00
Group-II (Coking Coal WG II, III, Semi Coking I, II, Non-Coking A, B)	135.00
Group-III (Coking Coal WG IV, Non Coking C)	95.00
Group-IV (Non-Coking D, E)	70.00
Group-V (Non-Coking F, G)	50.00
Group-VI (Andhra Pradesh Coal)	75.00